# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2783
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2007
DISTRESS SALE OF PADDY
Murmu Shri Rupchand

**Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:**

(a) whether reports of the distress sale of paddy in some States has been received by the Government recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons for the fall in prices and distress sale of paddy; and

(c) the steps taken to protect the interest of farmers in these States?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) & (b): Reports were received regarding sale of paddy below the Minimum Support Price (MSP) during Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2006-07(in October-November, 2006) in some States. After necessary investigation, Food Corporation of India (FCI) has informed that in all the cases investigated the paddy sold was below the Fair Average Quality specifications of Govt. of India.

(c): In order to ensure that the benefits of MSP operations reach the farmers, the Government agencies

(FCI and State agencies) have opened procurement centres in all districts having marketable surplus of paddy. The farmers are free to offer their produce to the Government agencies at MSP, or in the open market, as is advantageous to them. An incentive bonus of Rs. 40/- per quintal is also being given, over and above the MSP for paddy purchased in KMS 2006-07 (up to 31.3.2007). Wide publicity through Radio, Television, pamphlets, banners etc. is also undertaken to make the farmers aware of the MSP operations as well as prescribed quality specifications. To widen the coverage of MSP operations, the Decentralized Procurement Scheme is in operation in several states such as Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal etc.